

near Abingdon, in Harford county, there are extensive deposits principally of that variety called in the art *Brown-ore*, which is of the best quality. Along Bush river in the same county, the best quality of *Hone-ore* is raised. This latter variety is a mixture of *carbonate* and *oxide of iron*, and is said to produce the best foundry iron. Hone-ore, generally, yields a more valuable metal for castings; while the Brown-ores furnish the best forge-pigs. The furnace of Bush creek is in part fed with these ores. Others, with which it is supplied from the upper part of Harford county, will be described hereafter, but it may be proper to mention here, that associated with what is obtained from Bush river, there is a mineral, apparently a *ferruginous Jasper*, which by some iron-masters has been termed *Flint-ore*. This is not an ore of iron; but on the contrary is a pernicious article when suffered to go into the furnace.

Such are the principal known localities of iron-ores in this section of the State of Maryland. There are doubtless others of equal extent and value; and it is known that ores of inferior quality, but answering admirably when mixed with the richer refractory ores, also abound. It is not deemed necessary to specify these at present.

Besides all of these, however, which have just been briefly described as belonging more immediately to the Tertiary formation; there is found in its upper limits among the erratic material with which it is associated and occurring very often in very large masses, another variety described mineralogically as *Hematitic brown oxide of iron*. The forged iron from this ore is commonly found to be hard, very malleable, and has been used to furnish steel. It was formerly worked at the furnace known as Ridgely's furnace on the Falls of the Great Gunpowder.

The whole amount of iron produced annually in the state of Maryland has been estimated at 5200 tons—valued at about \$400,000; and it is thought that one half at least of this quantity is derived from the sources which have so far been enumerated.

From all these considerations the undersigned are of opinion, that further researches into the mineral constitution of the portion of our state which they have so far passed in review, cannot fail to bring to light new sources of wealth, as well as to extend the operation of those that are already known; whilst they remain persuaded that where so many important interests are subserved, great and lasting benefits must accrue to the community at large.

The undersigned will now proceed to state the results of their observations on other parts of the state.